

Procurement of Copra for Karnataka

1387. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of copra procured so far, under Minimum Support Price in Karnataka; and

(b) what is the total quantity of copra remaining to be procured/lifted, from farmers in the State and the details of steps Government propose to take to procure the copra fully from the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) NAFED has so far procured a total quantity of 5959 MTs of ball copra in Karnataka under Price Support Scheme during 2000 and 2001 season.

(b) The procurement of ball Copra in Karnataka is continuing and it will continue till the prices remain lower than the Minimum Support Price (MSP). No Specific quantity to be procured in future can therefore be indicated.

Improper use of pesticides and insecticides

1388. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "With that fruit bite, you could be licking pesticide", appearing in the Times of India dated 10th July, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to guard against the dangers of improper use of pesticides and insecticides as highlighted in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to guard against the dangers of improper use of pesticides:

(i) The Registration Committee constituted under the insecticides Act, 1968 prescribes dose and waiting period while approving

the use of pesticides on various crops so as to ensure that pesticides residues do not exceed the tolerance limit prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

- (ii) To check unsafe farming practices, the Government is promoting eco-friendly approach through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on various crops.
- (iii) A massive educational and training programme on IPM for farmers and extension functionaries has been launched for minimising the use of chemical pesticides.
- (iv) Use of bio-pesticides including neem based pesticides is being encouraged.
- (v) The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs implementing the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 and Rules, 1955 have been advised from time to time to keep strict vigil on the level of pesticides residues in food commodities.

Seminar on Fisheries

1389. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is the second largest producer of inland fishery in the world, next only to China;
- (b) whether India has set a target of eight million tonnes of fishery produce by 2020;
- (c) whether a national seminar in reverine and reservoir fisheries was organised at Kochi recently;
- (d) whether the seminar evolved a national code (Guidelines) for conservation and utilisation of inland water resources; and
- (e) whether Government are working on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.